



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 8, 2003

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MARVIN SMILON, HERBERT HADAD,
MICHAEL KULSTAD
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**U.S. CHARGES MEMBERS OF 'MURDER UNIT' CREW WITH
RACKETEERING, TRIPLE HOMICIDE, ATTEMPTED ARSON,
EXTORTION, DRUG DEALING AND FIREARMS VIOLATIONS**

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, KEVIN P. DONOVAN, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, and RAYMOND E. KELLY, the New York City Police Commissioner, announced today the Superseding Indictment of three members of the "Murder Unit" crew, a violent street gang that operated in the vicinity of 157th Street and Gerard Avenue in the Bronx, with wide-ranging racketeering and other charges relating to a triple homicide, attempted arson, extortion, drug dealing, and various firearms offenses.

The 14-count Indictment charges CHAROD BECTON, a/k/a "Christian Harris," a/k/a "Fams," a/k/a "58," a/k/a "5," a/k/a "5 Easy," a/k/a "Freddrick Prince," a/k/a "Da God," a/k/a "Sharod Becton," a/k/a "Charrod Becton," a/k/a "Sharrod Becton," a/k/a

"Christian Becton," (hereinafter, "CHAROD BECTON" or "BECTON"); DARRYL HENDERSON, a/k/a "D-Boss," a/k/a "D," a/k/a "Dee," a/k/a "2001," a/k/a "Tariq Henderson," (hereinafter, "DARRYL HENDERSON" or "HENDERSON"); and AMIN WILSON, a/k/a "Edy Amin," a/k/a "Idi Amin," a/k/a "Edy," a/k/a "Edi," a/k/a "Woody," a/k/a "13," (hereinafter, "AMIN WILSON" or "WILSON"), with participating in a racketeering enterprise from 1996 up to and including the present.

According to the Indictment, Murder Unit was a gang that operated principally in the vicinity of 157th Street and Gerard Avenue, the Bronx, and that the criminal activity of Murder Unit members included, among other things, the protection and maintenance of territory over which the gang claimed control. Members of Murder Unit allegedly asserted their control by distributing narcotics in the vicinity of 157th Street and Gerard Avenue and by allegedly allowing only persons associated with Murder Unit to distribute narcotics in the area. Other persons who wished to distribute narcotics in that area either had to pay extortionate rent or meet violent consequences, it was charged.

The Indictment charges that on January 21, 2002, BECTON, HENDERSON and WILSON participated in a conspiracy to seize cocaine from a drug dealer's apartment at 690 Gerard Avenue. According to the Indictment, HENDERSON and BECTON used force to enter the apartment, tying up the occupants - Louise Butler, Rico Crosby, and Mosies Perez - and fatally stabbing each

of them multiple times. The Indictment alleges that after killing the three victims, HENDERSON and BECTON turned on the apartment's gas stove to full as candles were lit. BECTON and HENDERSON then fled with stolen cocaine, first finding refuge at a New Jersey hotel and then taking a train from New York City to Miami, Florida.

According to the Government, at a November 8, 2002, bail hearing for BECTON in connection with the narcotics charges that were contained in the initial Indictment before Chief United States District Judge MICHAEL B. MUKASEY of the Southern District of New York, a fourth participant in the conspiracy was arrested in September 2002 but after giving a post-arrest statement committed suicide while incarcerated at the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Bail at the November, 8, 2002, hearing and at a subsequent appeal hearing was denied for BECTON.

At that same bail hearing, it was revealed that on one occasion in 1999, BECTON was arrested in the gang's territory while wearing a bullet-proof vest. BECTON is also a suspect in a 1998 shooting in which an innocent bystander was shot with errant fire from an M-16 rifle.

The Indictment also charges BECTON and WILSON with extorting drug dealers who sold narcotics in the vicinity of 157th Street and Gerard Avenue and with illegally possessing

and/or using firearms. All three defendants are also charged with participating in a narcotics conspiracy. Additionally, WILSON is charged with acting as an accessory after the fact to the January 21, 2002, robbery and murder.

The case is currently pending before Judge MUKASEY.

If convicted of the charges in the Indictment, BECTON and WILSON each face a mandatory term of 15 years' imprisonment and a maximum term of life imprisonment, and HENDERSON faces a mandatory term of 5 years' imprisonment and a maximum term of life imprisonment.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI and the NYPD. Mr. COMEY said the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL M. GITNER is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

03-168

###